



Vendor Tipping Guide

Wedding Vendor Tipping Pointers:

1. Tip when you feel you've received extraordinary service. Not all vendors expect tips, so it's really a personal, case-by-case decision.
2. Check your contracts to be sure that gratuity has not already been included in the price.
3. Generally speaking, you do not need to tip the owners of large businesses (just their employees). Small business owners, on the other hand, should be considered for tipping based on the quality of service you feel you've received.
4. Tip or no tip, writing a thank you note to vendors who provided you with great service is always a thoughtful gesture and highly appreciated—as is leaving them positive reviews on wedding planning websites like The Knot, WeddingWire, and Google (most important!)

While your tip should depend on your wedding budget and level of satisfaction, & a few other factors, here are some quick guidelines on how to tip your wedding vendors, with additional protocol & tips:

Wedding Photographer(s)/ Videographer(s)

- **Protocol:** Optional; consider tipping second shooters or staff beyond the business owner(s).
- **Amount:** Although not required, consider tipping wedding photographers and cinematographers \$50-\$100 per person, or instead of a cash tip, you can provide a personal gift as another nice gesture for their photography services.
- **Timing:** At the end of the reception, or when their contracted service time ends.

Wedding Planner

- **Protocol:** Optional; about 50% of couples tip.
- **Amount:** Although wedding planners don't expect a tip, if you'd like to show your appreciation for examples of exceptional service, consider offering a tip that's 10-20% of the total bill (up to \$500), or a personal gift.
- **Timing:** At the end of the reception, or mail it after the honeymoon.

Venue Coordinator/Catering Captain

- **Protocol:** Optional. If service fee is not included in the contract, consider tipping according to below.
- **Amount:** Consider tipping venue coordinators and catering captains \$250-500, or 15-20% of the food and drink bill.
- **Timing:** If included in the contract, the final bill is due before the wedding. If not, at the end of the reception.

Officiant

- **Protocol:** Optional, depending on the officiant. If s/he works for church or synagogue, you might be expected to make a donation to that institution instead, or in addition. If you're having a close friend or family member officiate your wedding, it's a good idea to buy them a thoughtful gift in the \$25 to \$50 range instead, as handing them money could feel a little weird.
- **Amount:** Consider tipping a wedding officiant around \$50-100 for the officiant alone, depending on how much time they've spent with you pre-ceremony. Consider a \$100-500 donation to the religious institution.
- **Timing:** Prior to the wedding (when paying the ceremony service fee), or after the rehearsal.

Ceremony Musicians

- **Protocol:** Optional; consider the complexity of their setup and/or performance.
- **Amount:** Consider tipping each ceremony musician \$15-20 per musician.
- **Timing:** At the end of the wedding ceremony.

Florist

- **Protocol:** Optional or not expected, unless you really loved their work and service.
- **Amount:** Consider tipping your wedding florist 10-15% of your total floral bill.
- **Timing:** Include a separate check with the final invoice, or mail it after the honeymoon.

Hair & Make-up Artist(s)

- **Protocol:** Expected
- **Amount:** Wedding hair and make-up artists should be tipped 15-25% of your total charge, depending on the quality of service (just like at a salon).
- **Timing:** At the end of their service.

Transportation

- **Protocol:** Optional (but is likely already included in the contract).
- **Amount:** Wedding transportation staff can be tipped 15-20% of your total bill.
- **Timing:** At the end of the night or after the final ride.

Wedding Band

- **Protocol:** Optional; consider their overall performance and responsiveness to your requests.
- **Amount:** Consider tipping your wedding band \$20-\$35 per musician.
- **Timing:** At the end of the reception.

Wedding DJ

- **Protocol:** Optional; consider their overall quality and responsiveness to your requests.
- **Amount:** Although not required, consider tipping your wedding DJ \$50-\$150.
- **Timing:** At the end of the reception.

Reception Waitstaff

- **Protocol:** Optional, based on contract (check to see if a service fee is included). Tip on top of service fee only for exceptional service.
- **Amount:** Consider tipping your wedding reception waitstaff 15-20% of labor costs on your food and drink bill.
- **Timing:** At the end of the reception (or during set-up, to encourage great service).

Reception Bartender

- **Protocol:** Optional, based on contract (check to see if a service fee is included). Tip on top of service fee only for exceptional service. Make sure guests are not tipping on top of your tip!
- **Amount:** Consider tipping your wedding reception bartender 10% of the total liquor bill.
- **Timing:** At the end of the reception (or during set-up, to encourage great service).

Delivery Personnel (Wedding Cake, Rentals, Flowers, etc.)

- **Protocol:** Optional
- **Amount:** Consider tipping wedding delivery personnel \$5-\$10 per person.
- **Timing:** Leave cash envelopes with the coordinator or catering manager (whomever will be on site overseeing delivery and setup) to distribute the tip(s).